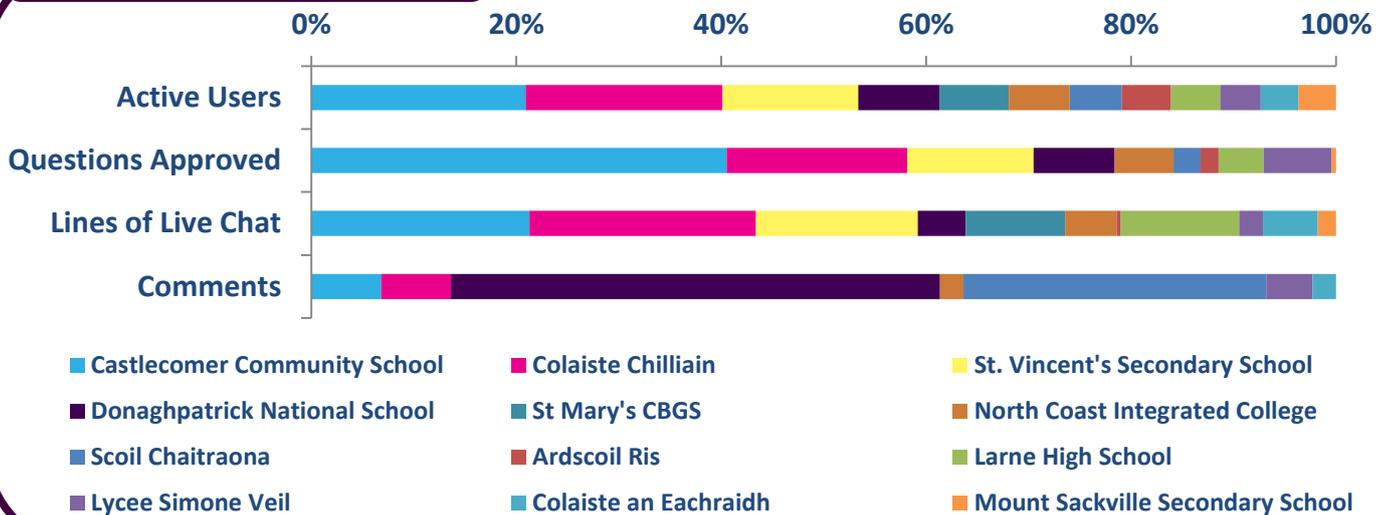




## November 2015

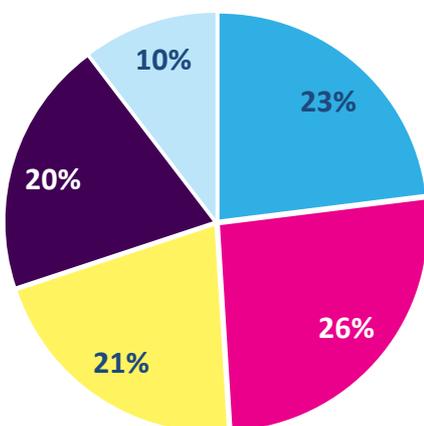
The Food Science Zone was a themed zone funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry for schools in Ireland, and Andrew, Emma and John were members of the Society. Ruth and Dilip work at Teagasc, the agriculture and food authority, John and Emma are researchers at the Institute of Food and Health and Andrew is studying the vitamins and fatty acids in milk for his PhD. It was a busy zone where many questions focused on the theme of food research, and the scientists were engaging in live chats. Emma, the zone winner, was particularly active in live chats, contributing nearly half of the total chat by scientists.

### School data at a glance

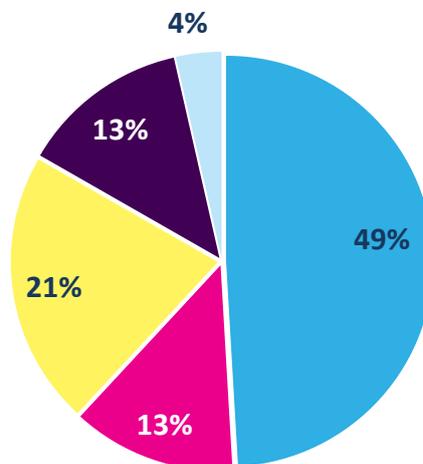


### Scientist activity

#### Answers



#### Lines of Live chat



Scientist	Profile views	Position
Emma Feeney	817	Winner
John Gleeson	781	2nd
Andrew Quigley	582	3rd
Ruth Hamill	611	4th
Dilip Ray	503	5th

## Key figures from the Food Science Zone and the averages of the November zones

PAGE VIEWS	FOOD SCIENCE ZONE	NOV '15 ZONES AVERAGE
Total zone	24,690	21,241
ASK page	2,418	1,860
CHAT page	3,268	2,420
VOTE page	1,303	1,433

	FOOD SCIENCE ZONE	NOV '15 ZONES AVERAGE	IAS IRELAND AVERAGE
Schools	12	12	11
Students logged in	391	409	355
% of students active in ASK, CHAT or VOTE	93%	91%	84%
Questions asked	847	746	649
Questions approved	227	192	250
Answers given	465	447	533
Comments	74	35	63
Votes	291	326	280
Live chats	16	17	15
Lines of live chat	4,626	2,551	3,926
Average lines per live chat	289	226	266

### Popular topics

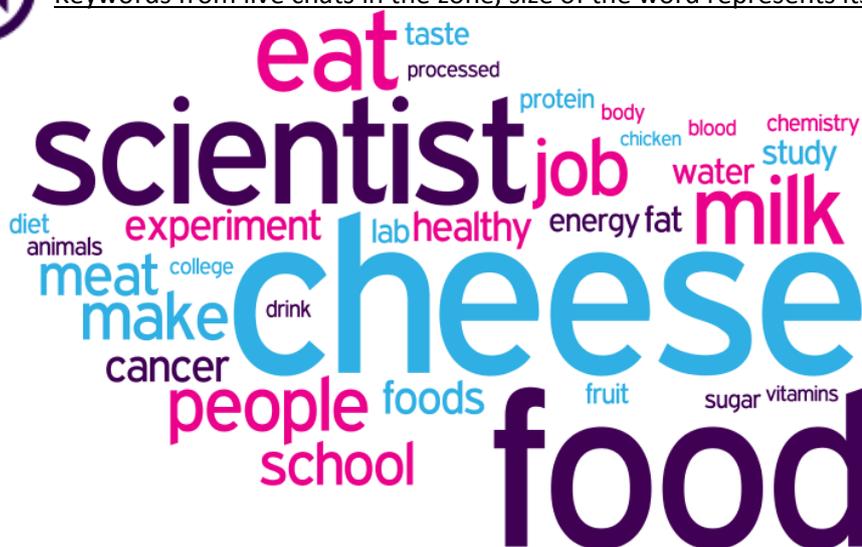
Students had clearly read the profiles of the different scientists and asked many questions about the specific food stuff they researched in both ASK and the live chats. For example, asking Josh and Andrew about milk, asking Emma about cheese and genetics, and asking Ruth about meat.

The questions on these topics were varied, covering the compounds in the food and more general health benefits. Diet and nutrition was a popular topic, such as talking about healthy diets for athletes.

Other topics in the zone included questions about how religion and science interact and there were lots of questions related to the scientists' jobs, if they enjoyed them and how it affected their family.



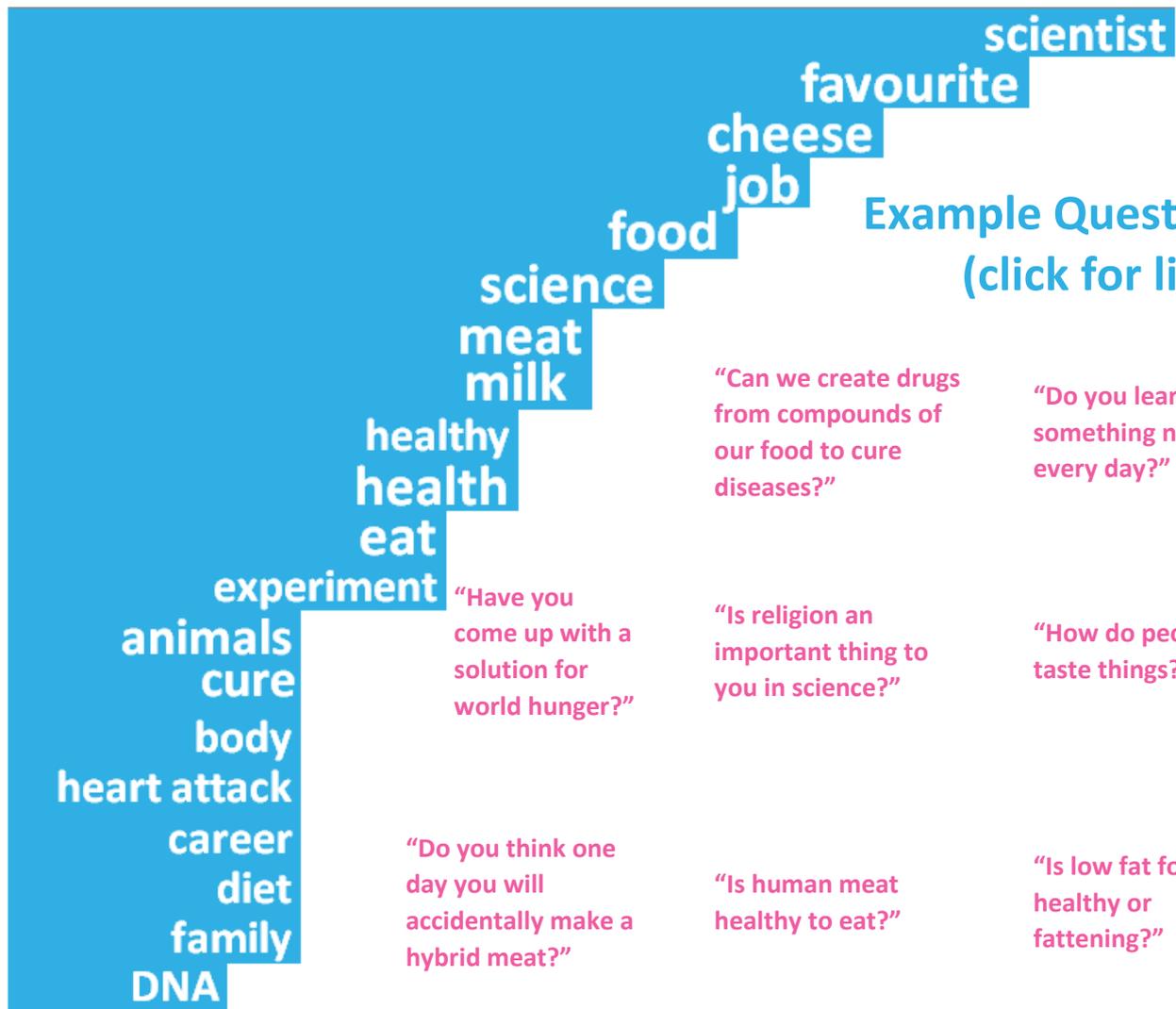
Keywords from live chats in the zone, size of the word represents its popularity





Keywords of questions asked in the zone, length of bar represents frequency of use

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16



### Example Questions (click for links)

“Can we create drugs from compounds of our food to cure diseases?”

“Do you learn something new every day?”

“Is religion an important thing to you in science?”

“How do people taste things?”

“Have you come up with a solution for world hunger?”

“Do you think one day you will accidentally make a hybrid meat?”

“Is human meat healthy to eat?”

“Is low fat food healthy or fattening?”

“Which food constituent is primarily responsible for the high energy content of cheese?”

“A lot of cheese is made with moulds, how can they be good for us?”

“Do you think it is ethically acceptable to eat meat or should we be looking for other ways to feed ourselves?”

“What happens and why it happens and if somebody who drinks coffee regularly stops drinking it suddenly?”

“How close are scientists to curing cancer?”

“Do you get any rude comments for being a female scientist?”

“If you could have 1 scientist (dead or alive) to help you with your work, who would it be?”

“What component of milk will reduce heart attacks?”

## Examples of good engagement

Students brought up the subject of animal testing and John used the opportunity to clearly explain the reasoning for using rats in his research.

*“We are doing a debate in animal testing next week so just wondering: does everyone treat the animals right in your lab? What do you do with them after?” – Student*

*“I’m a huge animal lover so nobody would get away with not treating them right [smiley] But we also have University system to ensure everything we do minimises harm, a national system AND we have to do exams for our licence. We are audited as well to make sure everything is ok. Animal work requires respect for the animals and that’s key” – John, scientist*

*“How do you know if it works on real life humans!? Just because it’s been tested on rats and worked successfully doesn’t mean it works on humans the same way or does it?” – Student*

*“You’re dead right. So these compounds do work in humans (people have tested before). But the formulation (pill) hasn’t been tested before. So for our work we always go Cell > Rat > Human. If everything works out I’d love to do work with people. But say if you discovered a drug and it worked in rats you’re very right that may not work on humans. But for pill design rats are fine as we are mainly using them as they’ve similar digestive system to us” – John, scientist*

## Scientist winner: Emma Feeney

Emma plans for the prize money: *“we hope to use it to make an app that people can take a photo of their own tongue, and use the app to count their tastebuds! This sort of thing could be used to do research in people’s own homes. In this way, anyone can do research – this is called ‘Citizen Science’ or ‘Science Crowdsourcing’ and it is becoming really popular.”* Read Emma’s [thank you message](#).



## Student winner: Nicole!Emoji!Nicole

For great engagement during the event, this student will receive a gift voucher and a certificate.

## Feedback

We’re still collecting feedback from teachers, students and scientists but here are a few of the comments made during the event...

*“I thought scientist just looked like they do in the film Flubber and experimented on aliens or weird stuff but when I found out you liked Taylor Swift I realised you are more down to earth and not like mad scientist 😊” – Student*



**John Gleeson**  
@JohnGleekson

I'm loving how student in #IASIE are regularly stumping me with questions!  
[@RSC\\_Newsroom](#) [@imascientist](#)